hollow body, such as dust introduced during storage.

According to another characteristic, the vaporizing phase is followed, after a period of contact, by a phase of withdrawal (drying) of the remaining sterilizing agent.

Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will become apparent from reading the description that follows given with regard to the figures attached, in which:

JK 7/15/05 Brief Description of The Drawings

- Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a device for sterilizing hollow bodies conforming to the invention;

- Figure 2 is a schematic diagram of a device for withdrawing the sterilizing agent after a determined contact time;

- Figure 3 is a schematic view from above of a variation of a device according to the invention;

- Figure 4 is a schematic view of a device used for withdrawal of the sterilizing agent;

- Figure 5 is a block diagram of an installation using the invention;

- Figure 6 is a diagram of a variation of the devices in Figures 1 to 4.

The device shown in Figure 1 comprises an injector or atomizer 1 for the sterilizing agent that can be vaporized such as hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid or any other suitable agent. The injector is connected on one hand to a reservoir for the agent, not shown, and to control means for its opening and closing on the other hand.

The injector may be mechanical, electromechanical, pneumatic or from any other appropriate type.